

Tab Benoit jazzes up 3rd Floor Cantina

By Travis Hopper
The Battalion

Before his death in 1993, the great Albert Collins was known by friends and fans as the "Master of the Telecaster", the type of guitar he made famous while pioneering a new, raw blues sound.

Tab Benoit looks like the heir to the throne.

Currently on tour to promote the release of his critically acclaimed album *Live: Swampland Jam*, Tab brings his own unique blend of Cajun, country, and low-down blues to the Third Floor Cantina Friday night for a sizzling taste of how the blues are supposed to be. Benoit, a native of Houma, La., taught himself how to play guitar at the tender age of nine and has never looked back.

Ironically, if it were not for his parents, he may never have become the up and coming star that he is today. "My parents got tired of listening to me play drums," said Benoit in the *Battle Creek Enquirer*. "Drums are still my first love."

"But they just got tired of listening to me play drums and gave me a guitar. It was like, 'Here, take this, and forget the drums.'" Benoit then started jamming with any and every band that needed a guitarist, from country to alternative, rock to R&B and everything in between.

By the time he was 17, he had developed his own unique



TAB BENOIT AND HIS GUITAR BRING THE RELAXING SOUND OF BLUES TO THE 3RD FLOOR CANTINA ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

sound and soon earned a regular spot at the legendary Tabby's Blues Box.

It was there that he honed his skills on blues standards and his own compositions for a measly \$13 a night. It was also where the club's owner, Tabby Thomas, gave Benoit a piece of advice that changed his life forever: "If you play the blues, you will always have a job."

Benoit has taken this advice and run with it: literally.

When he turned 20, he hit the road full time and developed a tight, raw sound with his three-man band that owes just as much to Howlin' Wolf as it does B.B. King.

The thing that sets Tab apart from all the other "next big things," however, is not his gui-

tar. With a voice as soulful as Ray Charles ever was, Benoit sings with such conviction and yearning that it's sometimes hard to believe the man isn't 80 years old and living on an old plantation. He captures this sound on *Live: Swampland Jam*, which was recorded at the House Of Blues in New Orleans and Grant Street Dance Hall in Lafayette, La.

The album opens up with the catchy funk groove of "Let Love Take Control," creeps into a slow-burning cover of the Albert Collins standard "Too Many Dirty Dishes," moves on to the tender, accordion-driven "Louisiana Style," and wraps up with a dashboard-thumping rendition of "It Takes A Long Time."

PLEASE SEE BENOIT ON PAGE 5.

Sister 7, Haywood rock the Canyon

By April Towery
The Battalion

What do Blockbuster Rockfest, H.O.R.D.E. Tour, ESPN's X Games Xperience Tour, Chesterfield Café in Paris and College Station's Shadow Canyon have in common?

Usually nothing, but Austin rock band Sister 7 will change that when the quartet plays tonight on Northgate. The band has played to over 300,000 fans with the likes of Jewel, Bush, Third Eye Blind and Matchbox 20, a drastic change to playing in the usually sawdust-covered Shadow Canyon.

But Sister 7 band members are used to adjusting to change. The band recently changed its name from Little Sister because several other bands on the circuit had the same name. After the name change, the band released its third album and Arista Austin debut last summer, *This The Trip*.

The album title proves to fit the band's style, as it tours more than 300 dates each year, including regularly sold out venues such as Boulder, Chicago, New Orleans, Memphis and St. Louis.

The band, formed in 1991, is led by vocalist Patrice Pike. She and a high school buddy, bassist Darrell Phillips, teamed up with guitarist Wayne Sutton and drummer Sean Phillips (no relation to Darrell) at an impromptu jam session in a Dallas club. The band relocated to Austin in 1993.



WAYNE SUTTON, DARRELL PHILLIPS, PATRICE PIKE AND SEAN PHILLIPS

PLEASE SEE SISTER 7

OPENING ACTS

Friday

The Crooked Path Ale House
• Blue Earth, alternative band.

Dixie Theater
• Haywood, rock band.

Sweet Eugene's
• Michael McAllister, acoustic.

The Blues Factory
• Ruthie Foster, blues.

The Cow Hop
• Throwaway People, blues

3rd Floor Cantina

• Tab Benoit, blues.

Saturday

The Crooked Path Ale House
• Six Mile Bridge.

Fitzwilly's
• Ruthie Foster, blues.

The Cow Hop
• Squint, punk rock band.

Shadow Canyon
• Haywood, Sister 7.

Sweet Eugene's

• Patrick, Phil & Co.

El Arroyo

• Cosmic Earth Band

• Opening Acts is a compilation of week events taking place the Bryan-College Station area.
• Contact the listed venues for details on appearance times and/or cover charges.

Quote for the Day

This week's theme: New Year's Resolutions.

"People set their goals too high for a New Year's resolution because they think they have a whole year to accomplish them. We have this vast amount of time to start working on our goals, so we procrastinate until the end of the year, and it's always too late."

— Christine Castaneda
Freshman speech communications major

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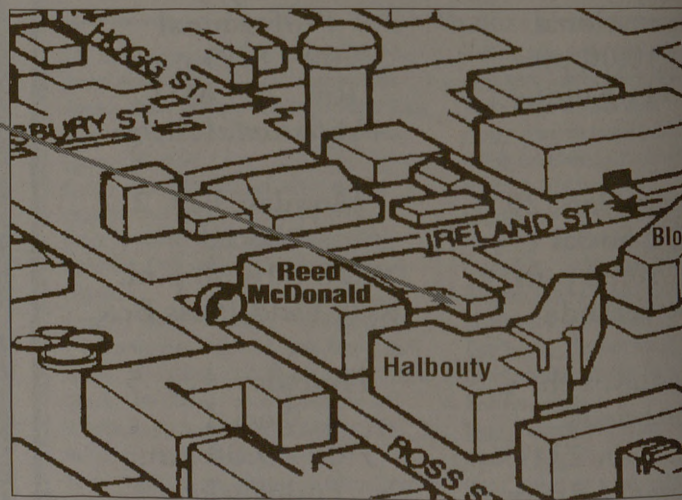
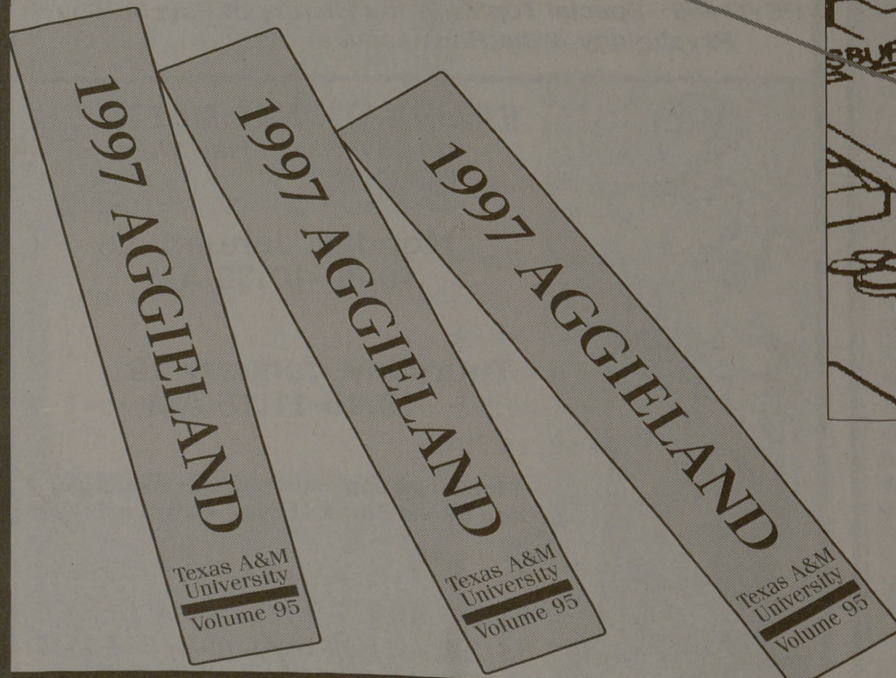
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